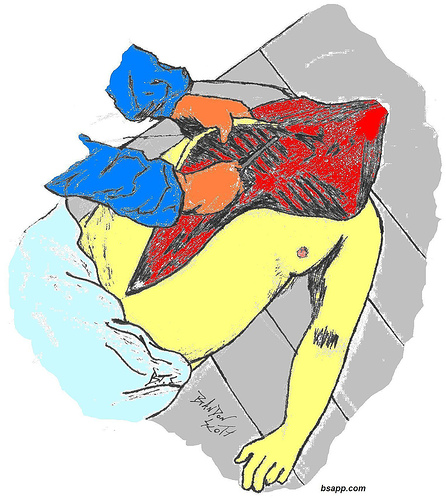
**Autopsy**

A WebQuest for Forensic Science



**Introduction**

**Who does the autopsy, and what happens during an autopsy? You will find out by doing this WebQuest.**

                                
**The Task**

**Upon completing this WebQuest you will be able to:**

* define *forensic pathology* and other terms;
* describe the *coroner* and *medical examiner* systems and describe their differences and similarities;
* distinguish between the *cause of death* and the *manner of death*;
* describe *medicolegal autopsy* and explain when a coroner or medical examiner must perform an autopsy.

You will work independently and report your findings as instructed. Use the sources listed after each step in the process. Your writing should be in full sentences. Do not

plagiarize the web pages! I will check.

**The Process**

1. Use the resources listed to find the *forensic* definitions of the terms in italic and underlined in the descriptions under “The Task” above. Rewrite, in your own words, the definitions into a Word document.

***Your sources:***

[**Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary**](http://www.merriam-webster.com/)

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

OR

[**Forensic Glossary**](http://www.forensiceducation.com/sourcebooks/glossary/index.htm)<http://www.forensiceducation.com/sourcebooks/glossary/index.htm>

Time budget: 10 minutes

1. In your Word document, four spaces below your terms, write a paragraph describing the difference between the coroner system and the medical examiner system. When is each system used? What type of education is required for each? How do they get their jobs (elected, appointed, etc.)? What are their duties?

[Source 1](http://www.surreycoroner.info/workofcoroners.html)

<http://www.surreycoroner.info/workofcoroners.html>

[Source 2](http://thename.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&Itemid=42)    <http://thename.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39&Itemid=42>

[Source 3](http://volusia.org/medicalexaminer/faq.htm)

<http://volusia.org/medicalexaminer/faq.htm>

[Source 4](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs/education/medical/index.html)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/visibleproofs/education/medical/index.html>

Time budget: 10 minutes

1. Write another paragraph describing the term "manner of death." How many manners of death are there? What are they? How does each happen? There are two additional manners of death sometimes listed. What are they and when are they used? How is manner of death different from "cause of death?"

[Source One](http://library.thinkquest.org/04oct/00206/text_ta_death_manner.htm)

<http://library.thinkquest.org/04oct/00206/text_ta_death_manner.htm>

[Source Two](http://poptop.hypermart.net/deathcert.html)

<http://poptop.hypermart.net/deathcert.html>

[Source Three](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&ct=res&cd=8&url=http%3A%2F%2Fthename.org%2Findex.php%3Foption%3Dcom_docman%26task%3Ddoc_download%26gid%3D89&ei=CU8dR_HJHZGygASWw-CLAg&usg=AFQjCNFYwnSg7I9jQ2-F5R5yn4Lv4WSsog&sig2=gvekZLtWW16St1dPY9WuoA)

Pdf file …click on link

Time budget: 10 minutes

1. Visit [this HBO website](http://www.hbo.com/autopsy/interactive/) and work through the entire interactive autopsy (click on "launch autopsy on the right side of the screen). There are five sections and a conclusion, and within each section you should click on the various parts of the body. You will need a set of headphones to hear the audio. Note that a mannequin is used for this autopsy. Answer these questions as you work through the autopsy (cut and paste the list into the Word document and then answer them):

Time budget: 30 minutes

1. What does smell tell you at an autopsy?
2. Name two things you can learn from livor mortis.
3. What kind of tattoos did the decedent have?
4. What insect evidence was present?
5. What was found under the decedent's fingernail?
6. What are the two parts to an autopsy?
7. What cause of death was determined by an examination of the liver?
8. What is the normal color of lungs? What causes them to turn purple and dark?
9. Name two things you can learn from examining the stomach.
10. How many feet of small intestine are in the human body?
11. What happens in about 5% of murders?
12. Name the bone that is broken in manual strangulation.
13. How do toxins get into the hair?
14. What is the rate of hair growth?
15. In what organ are petechial hemorrhages found, and what do they show?
16. Where are the bullets lodged in the body?
17. How does a ME or Coroner interact with the decedent's family?
18. When done, go to [this interactive autopsy](http://www.deathonline.net/movies/mm/autopsy.cfm) and work through the entire sequence, including the video. Answer these questions as you work through the autopsy (cut and paste the list into the Word document and then answer them in your own words):  Time budget: 30 minutes
    1. Describe an autopsy table.
    2. What parts of the body are tested for rigor mortis?
    3. What is lividity and what does it tell the pathologist?
    4. Describe a Y incision.
    5. How are the internal organs exposed?
    6. Describe the Rokitansky Method.
    7. List the organs that can be removed from the chest cavity, and their masses (you will weigh them in a later part of the autopsy).
    8. What is the main problem with examining a fresh brain?
    9. Who sews the body flaps back together?
    10. What is a Stryker saw? How does it work?
19. Now write a final paragraph summarizing an autopsy procedure. Who does it? When is it necessary? What does it involve? Save your file and leave it on the computer desktop (or other location determined by the computer lab technician).

**Evaluation**

You will be graded using this rubric.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Beginning**  **1** | **Developing**  **2** | **Accomplished**  **3** | **Exemplary**  **4** | **Score** |
| Definitions | Definitions are verbatim from the sources provided. | Definitions are simply the given definitions with the wording rearranged. | Definitions are restated in a manner that is not a rearrangement of the given definition, but does not show an understanding of the terms. | Definitions are restated in a manner that shows an understanding of the terms and not simply a rearrangement of the given definition. |  |
| Paragraph describing coroner vs. ME system | Incomplete sentences, incorrect spelling, and no distinction given. Questions not addressed. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Distinction via definitions only. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Distinction is clear and shows understanding of the difference between the two. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Distinction is clear and shows understanding of the difference between the two. Additional information given to clarify the differences. |  |
| Paragraph describing manners of death | Incomplete sentences, incorrect spelling, and no descriptions given. Questions not addressed. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Descriptions via definitions only. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Description is clear and shows understanding of the manners of death. | Complete sentences, correct spelling, and questions addressed. Distinction is clear and shows understanding of the manners of death. Additional information given to clarify the descriptions. |  |
| Autopsy Questions, 1st set | Less than 80% of questions are answered correctly and in own words. | 80% of questions are answered correctly and in own words. | All questions are answered correctly and in own words. | All questions are answered correctly and in own words. Additional information is given to clarify when needed. |  |
| Autopsy Questions, 2nd set | Less than 80% of questions are answered correctly and in own words. | 80% of questions are answered correctly and in own words. | All questions are answered correctly and in own words. | All questions are answered correctly and in own words. Additional information is given to clarify when needed. |  |

**Conclusion**

Congratulations! You have just finished your first autopsy! Welcome to the world of Forensic Pathology!